S
SR /379 cont./
369 and at Diakhaté where the hut of straw or purely of mud
[342] prevails. Could it be that the occupation of mason to which
W some None seem to devote themselves is a factor in this
[342] modernization of their settlements?

SR A certain "coquetry" absent in the bush villages leads
[463] some autochthones to lay out a little flower garden near their
S [351] hut (Tiali, Keur-Issa-Bambara)..

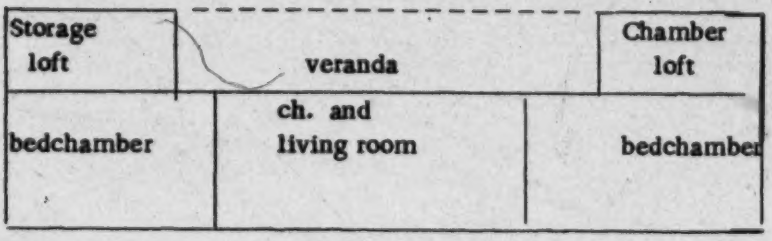
The presence of the city is also reflected in the equip-
S ment used by the rural people. The furniture is always sum-
369 mary, but more and more the iron bed is replacing the lat-
352 tice of wood or the mat put on the ground itself. A mattress,
[513] a military blanket, and commonly a mosquito net of a very light fabric complete this relative comfort. Often a little table of unpainted wood, a chair made of old boxes, a bit
S [353] of mirror hung on the wall, and sometimes an impressive number of photographs, or, lacking them, pages cut out of an illustrated magazine pasted to the walls, give a special stamp to this interior, which is no longer typically rural. Sometimes one even has the surprise of encountering in these modest interiors a wardrobe and a little buffet, which adorn, the more since they are not utilized, the room of a privileged native. But this comfort is an exception.

S The calabash, which is the very foundation of the
369 kitchen utensils, is still commonly utilized for household
415 tasks and for the common meals. Nevertheless the cast-iron or aluminum saucepan is no longer a luxury; the glass and above all the bottle are in common use.

S The clothing, too, has been modified. The loincloth
369 in bright colors, laboriously woven by the Toucouleur
291 /Tukolor/ weaver, durable but expensive, has become a
177 luxury. Imported printed cloth of moderate price has supplanted it everywhere. The white robe with embroidery has
S [292] become the festive garment par excellence; the shorts, the trousers, and the jacket, often futnished by the European, are now the clothes utilized for work.

/188 cont./

362 342 In the third type the "veranda" appears, which distinguishes it from the first two; first of all, it materially increases the size of the dwelling, which reaches a width of five or six meters; on the other hand, this new element, superfluous /sketch appears here/ one might say, for there is a question



there of a necessary benefit -- already introduces a little complexity into the arrangement of the rooms and as a result encourages some organization of family life around a center. Moreover, this beginning is most often only a rough draft which reproduces the same pattern (see sketch above); nevertheless, this rough draft has the merit of existing and of translating into the material, into the surrounding environment, this sketchy effort toward a "home-life" /quoted in English/ of modern type.

In almost all cases the floor is slightly raised and cemented. There is practically never any ceiling, and the roof is constructed either with the aid of a sheet of metal or fibro-cement, or with a wooden frame covered with tar paper, for the disinherited.

351 How is the house placed within the parcel? It is practically impossible to answer this question, for there seems to be no general rule; sometimes the house is on the edge of the street and forms a wall; sometimes it is at the back of the parcel facing the road, and sometimes it extends perpendicularly to the length of a neighboring parcel. The only certain fact is that one does not /189/ come across a wooden house of any importance in the middle of the land. This is understandable because the parcel measures approximately 15 by 11. But

/189 cont./

351 there again the small one-room structures of wood or straw are an exception to the rule and are distributed at random over the concession.

Each owner or tenant likes very much to see his parcel clearly delimited, and the wall is the general rule. But its forms are very different, and this in one and the same parcel, ranging from the house itself or a high wall of durable material to a line of pickets running along a simple heap of rubble. In any case, the parcels that are not completely enclosed, with merely an opening on the street, are rare.

343 351 What else does one find within the parcel or in the structures serving as dwellings? Two things: a little hovel sheltering the Madagascan stove and serving as kitchen, and then, in a corner of the parcel, an enclosure surrounded by [783] secco, with a kettle containing the water needed for ablutions, which gives off a characteristic ammoniacal odor, yet not enough to inconvenience the inhabitants.

362 511 342 Let us complete this description with the table of the number of buildings, shown according to the number of rooms and the material used. /Table 24 appears here./

More than 50% of the wooden structures (113 out of 206) have only one or two rooms, that is, fall into the first category. Thus the whole habitat does not show a very high standard of living.

511 364 354 312 /190/ This is still more true if one now considers the equipment of the huts. 228 homes out of 258, nearly 90 %, have neither water, electricity, nor w.c. in the concession; 26 have electricity only; one has a w.c. without running water or electricity, one likewise has a w.c. plus electricity (in these two cases the w.c. consists of a septic pit dug into the sand in one corner of the parcel by the person concerned under the control of the Service d'hygiene). One has water and electricity. Ten per cent of the homes are thus lighted with electricity, and the remainder with kerosene, which is very few in a city where, except in the very last quarters, it is possible to have a meter installed in each parcel.

/194 cont./

511 them. As a result, a certain number of family heads, around
427 17%, are owners only because they have bought their parcel.
[369] This fact therefore shows that Pikine has become a choice locality where it is worth the trouble to spend money in order to establish oneself, and thus corroborates the hypothesis set forth above, that the evolution of Pikine today attests to an indisputable degree of urban maturity.

In the districts one counts only 9% who are tenants; all the others are owners or on the way to it. But while the rent of a room in a hut located in the quarters costs an average of 500 francs, the price is much higher in the districts, and this income permits the owner, who for his part is obliged to make a monthly payment to the Office de l'Habitat hardly higher /195/ than the amount of the rent, to acquire at the end of five years a dwelling by paying, in a word, only a ridiculous amount. It is difficult to evaluate the frequency of this abusive practice; in our sample it was three out of four tenants.

351 Another point has to do with the possibility of dividing
511 the parcel into half parcels or of two and even three homes being associated on the land of a single parcel. This possibility does not exist in the districts, where, in practice, economic obligations and the arrangement of the habitat as a rule require having only a single home per parcel. In the quarter, out of 264 homes, one counts 191 of them, namely, 72%, that are alone on the land; 46, or 17%, are in groups of two; and 27, or 11%, are in groups of three.

511 The types of association are very diverse, from the
592 households which are united by a bond of kinship and which represent 22% of the cases of association, that is to say, 6% of the total, to homes living on two half-parcels rigorously separated. The most frequent case is that of two unrelated households living together, who share, if not the same hut, at least the same inner court, each having its fire and doing its cooking separately. In general, the families thus grouped contain only a limited number of members, the scantiness of a half parcel not being favorable to the installation of numerous families. Since this factor does not

/38/

Maize (Zea mays L.): Succeeds well when sown at the beginning of the winter season. The native species sown under these conditions is very beautiful and gives large yellow ears, very well filled out. The Africans eat fresh roasted corn, and, when it is hard, they make couscous of it. The infusion prepared with the fruit is emollient and diuretic. The styles or stigmas of maize are famous as diuretics and cure several ailments of the urinary tract (cystitis, gravel, dysuria, etc.); the young kernels, when cooked, constitute an excellent vegetable and replace peas; the flour gives a beer and an alcoholic extract. The husks of the ears serve to make quite springy mattresses.

II. -- Useful Gramineae

(not being subject to any cultivation)

Bamboo. -- Grows in the wild state in the Ravin des Voleurs /Ravine of Thieves/ near Thiès. The native species is rather small. Stakes, frames, masts of dugouts, huts, and fences, but especially clinting (constructions of bamboo filled in with lime) are made of it. The young shoots are said to be edible, and the sweet sap is supposed to be an agreeable drink. In Casamance a small species of bamboo grows in shady places; pipestems are made of it.

Begnefala (Andropogon shirensis). -- A tall gramineous plant with a penetrating aromatic odor. It is used in African medicine and the old colonials used it with success at the time of the great epidemic of yellow fever at Dakar in 1927. For fevers, one pounds the floral heads mixed with lemon or vinegar and energetically rubs the body with this mixture.

Hada (Imperata cylindrica). -- A gramineous plant with a very hard leaf and whitish ear, which is used for covering the roofs of huts.

Hat (Andropogon gayanus). -- Tall grass whose stem is used in making fences around huts.

Haham or cram-cram (Cenchrus biflorus). -- Its seeds fasten themselves to clothing and are very disagreeable. Is gathered and

/78 cont./

2. The Quarters

1. The quarters of European type.

361 563 If we eliminate the two military bases that offer very special characteristics peculiar to their internal organization, Thiès contains three quarters of Western conception: the Cité Ballabey /Ballabey District/, the Vieille Escale /Old Escale/, the Résidence. While the first shelters a population almost wholly European, in the other two the Whites are in the minority (one White to four Blacks).

No systematic segregation really exists in the city. The Cité Ballabey itself is a district for operatives belonging to the managerial staffs; it is in no way closed to Africans who have reached the rank required by their establishment. Although located near the workshops, it is a quiet zone. Its park is magnificent. The villas there are arranged regularly 351 according to a checkerboard plan in the purest colonial style. [342] Each square of the checkerboard is occupied by a villa divided into two twin and symmetrical apartments; courtyards and gardens extend out on all sides of the dwelling; some mango trees with dense foliage shelter the rabbit hutches, the hen house, and the garage from the heat of the sun. It is easy 341 to date the construction of each of them by its architectural 342 style: the pink brick corresponds to the years 1925-1930; the reinforced concrete, painted light beige, dates from after the war... The quarters of the D. M. A. and of the air base, with some variations, show almost no originality of their own and are comparable to the Cité Ballabey.

The Old Escale presents the appearance of a quarter [363] in a Mediterranean city: narrow streets bordered by storied buildings built out of the white limestone from Bargny; a small, light balcony with a metal balustrade projects over the sidewalk and runs from one end of the building to the other; a very slightly sloping red tile roof under a blue sky accentuates this impression of the Mediterranean world.

351 Each concession, square in plan, forms a regular block of

/78 cont./

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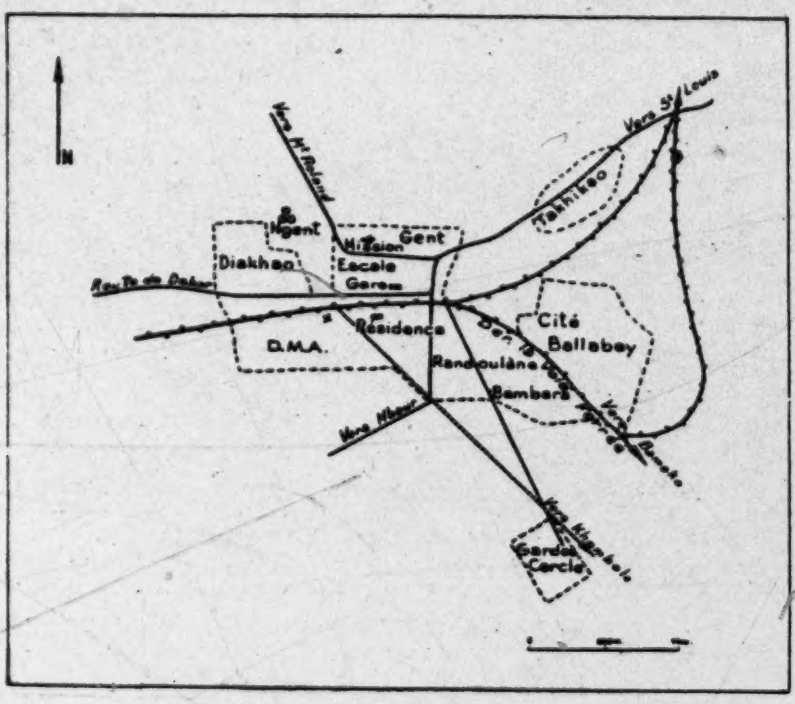

Fig. 3. Thiès in 1940.

● 351 buildings pierced here and there by a portal which gives access to the courtyards, always littered, of the shop or workshop. /79/
/Fig. 3 appears here./

361 [341] One now sees a modification of this oldish architecture and attempts at renovation. This quarter, built essentially for commercial purposes, did not leave any space free for expansion; no plaza, no small garden offers a pleasant spot in this assemblage dedicated essentially to trade.

The quarter of the Residence is quieter, and also cooler. The arrangement of the settlement pattern is looser; the houses [351] are spread out, and each is separated from its neighbor by a kitchen garden, a courtyard, or a small pleasure garden. Near the administrative buildings care has even been taken to reserve and arrange some public squares in the shade of immense Gambia

/80 cont./

443 flood rapidly closing in again behind it. All these noisy peo-
[493] ple carry with them a flavor of the neighboring bush, warm and dusty.

The market of dried fish readily reveals itself by the
[563] strong odor that it gives off; farther on is the stall of the butcher for Europeans; very close to it the merchant of the tripe trade who grills some skewers of small pieces on a charcoal fire. Elsewhere the sellers of colas, of condiments and cloth from Guinea, the cobblers offering their products among the very mixed odors in a halo of dust raised by the crowd. It is a delight for the eyes to see, in the bright sunlight under a very clear and pure blue sky, the shimmer of full garments of vivid hues moving with deliberation and majesty.

443 The animation reaches its greatest intensity between
512 nine and ten o'clock in the morning; the pedestrian is king, he blocks all traffic. Then, little by little, sellers and buyers disperse, and everyone falls into a blessed torpor at the noon hour. The afternoon is quiet, and at five o'clock each merchant has left his premises. This animation, which has only a temporary character in the commercial quarters of /Plates XI and XII appear here/ /81/ European type, is permanent in certain native quarters, but with a maximum amplitude in the evening after work.

2. The native quarters.

361 The native quarters also have their peculiar characteristics, a function of their antiquity, of their proximity or their distance from a center of activity, and, naturally, of the social category of their inhabitants.

Takhikao and Gent were among the first quarters created. Except for the nearness of the road from Thiès to Tivaouane, which attracts the merchants' small shops of planks or straw, they have kept their rural character: dwell-
● [351] ings arranged in a loose order, surrounded by an orchard protected by a tapade /walling/ of branches or stalks of millet.

[Text continues on p. 18]

18: Savonnet--17 E-5 (ca. 1955) 1956 MS37 Senegal MS37
/Between pp. 80 and 81./
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Plate XII

A. Thiès. The Takhikao square after winter.

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B. Thiès. Market scene.

/81 cont./

361 millet. The old people assemble in the evening under the
[517] large silk-cotton tree that shades the old crumbling mosque of
[312] Takhikao. The women chatter while awaiting their turn to
draw water at the common well, while the children play in
[342] the sand. Gent stands out because of a series of small, low
houses with a rectangular base and a roof of corrugated metal,
all identical and set along the trail that leads to the marigot
[351] /watercourse/ of the mission. A garden and a courtyard, al-
[563] ways littered with laundry, characterize each concession. It
is the quarter of Portuguese half-breeds called "portugalais"
(Plates XI B and XII A).

Diakhao-Nord /North Diakhao/, quiet, airy, arranged
[363] according to a strict plan of lots, contrasts with Diakhao-Sud
w ith narrow, winding lanes bordered on all sides by tapades
of millet stalks and noisy in the evening. The proximity of
[275] the two military bases has made it a place where one amuses
[525] himself with all that this includes in the way of drinking
[579] shops and more or less clandestine gambling dens. Brawls be-
tween drunken men are not rare in these places.

Randoulène, Derrière-la-voie-ferrée, and Bambara,
which form a unique quarter, homogeneous in its density and
in the heterogeneity of its dwellings, have become established
in the immediate vicinity of the railroad repair shops. The
[342] huts of planks, mud, or straw stand one against the other along
[363] the winding lanes laid out according to the desire of the
moment and not without some imagination. These lanes are
[373] noisy with people, and even late at night they walk between
the small shopkeepers' stalls lighted with smoking candle ends.
351 The dense crowd flows over the edges of the street and enters
the interior of the courtyards. The latter, covering barely
[463] a few square meters, often serve as a workshop for the
[252] weaver, the blacksmith, or the jeweler, and as a kitchen for
the housewives of the neighboring huts; it is not rare to see
half a dozen millet pounders there, pounding their mortars
in rhythm in groups of two or three. This is also the gathering
[517] place /82/ /Fig. 4 appears here/ of workers, where, after
[524] work, sitting in the sand amidst the dust and the noise, in a

/82 cont./

35 heat heavily laden with the most diverse odors, they play
517 cards or checkers. There is no question in such crowded
524 quarters of removing all the household rubbish and used water.
364 It is frequent in the course of walks within this zone to run into piles of refuse or to cross several ditches full of stagnant, dirty, and malodorous water. Sometimes at a bend in a street one is surprised to discover some straw huts in the middle of a spacious courtyard (Plate XI A).

361 The quarters of the south, newly divided into lots, re-
351 mind one of that of North Diakhao with its embryos of streets intersecting at a right angle, /83/ its huts arranged in a loose order inside each square and huddled in the shade of mango trees.

Each concession of Médina, in distinct geometric forms, marked off by tapades of millet stalks, is of a meticulous neatness that contrasts with the other quarters of the city.
795 This strict order, this rigid arrangement where all imagination is banished, is a reflection of the peculiar character of the Moslem Murid sect that occupies it.

361 The Cité Pillot, finally, built for the higher operatives and the specialized workers of the Dakar-Niger, to the south of the Bamako railroad, gives the appearance of a series of buildings that resemble those of barracks. The arrangement
342 of the new constructions is that of small houses with twin apartments.

369 Thus, each of the European-type quarters, like the native quarters, possesses some particular trait or even its own individuality, which seems to correspond to a definite social structure: milieu of merchants, millieu of officials, milieu of artisans, of laborers, of cultivators.

At the same time, each stage of its evolution has stamped this or that part of the city with its original imprint, which makes it possible to follow quite easily the successive periods of its expansion.

22: Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

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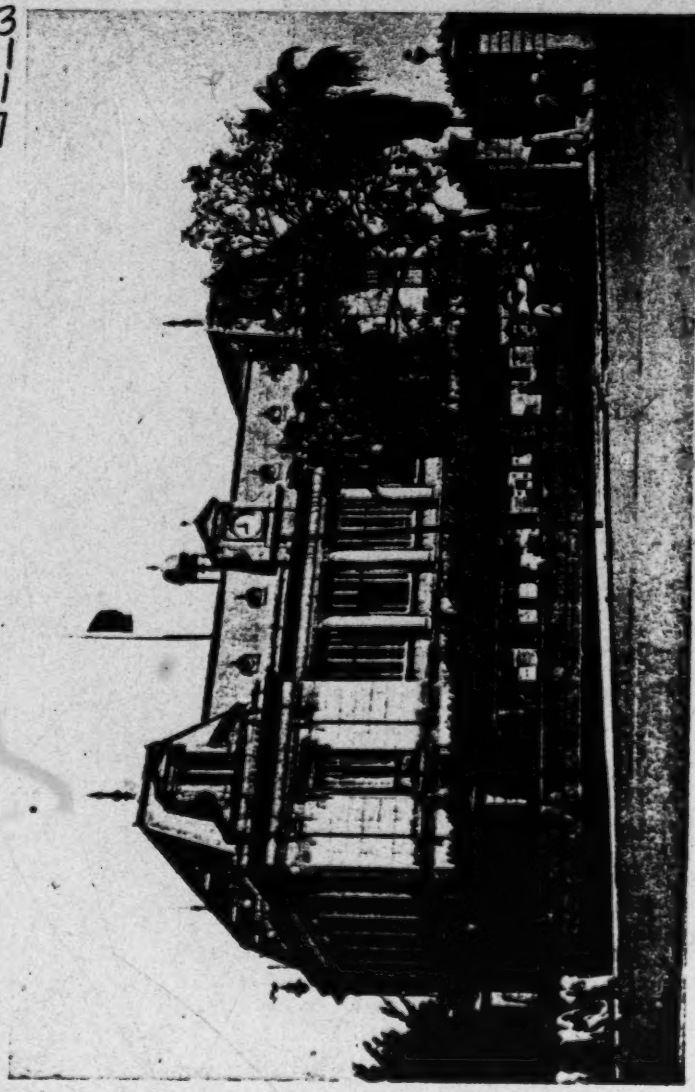

117. *Dakar: the Mairie*

[facing p. 135]